MISS LONELYHEARTS

Thoughtful gift better than cash for presentation

DEAR MISS LONELYHEARTS: I've been invited to a wedding for an older established couple with a cash bar, and am unsure of what to give for the presentation. Every wedding I have ever attended has featured an open bar, and I usually give a presentation of between $75 and $100 depending on how close I am to the couple getting married.

My understanding is the presentation is supposed to cover your meal and drinks, with a little extra for the couple. This wedding will feature a selection of appetizers and some wine, followed by a party with a cash bar. The couple is not paying for the space where the wedding is, or where the reception is being held. What is an appropriate amount of money to give as presentation in this case? **— Presentation Pickle, Winnipeg**

Dear Pickle: Have they actually asked for presentation, or anything at all? I'm guessing not, so gifts are a bonus, but a classy thing to do. I would not give this couple cash as they are not young people starting out and not buying the crowd the kind of formal feast parents put out for young brides and grooms. They will be old enough to handle the appetizer bill with ease. It's casual.

Instead, give them a card with a sweet inscription about the two of them and a gift you know they would enjoy. They will already have developed some interests and tastes by this time. Or just give them something romantic that no one can easily price, such as a picnic basket for fun in the autumn sun, a sexy game from a sex shop or a basket of massage oils in beautiful wrapping. Spend no more than $50, card included. Gifts such as chocolate body paint, exotic-smelling oils, the art of erotic love books are personal and fun. These gifts are never forgotten.

You get the rosy picture: brides and grooms of all ages are sexy beings.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts: This is so embarrassing. I went out for a casual pizza date and we both sat back in our chairs across from each other on a patio, soaking up the sun and looking at each other. I was wearing pants and tilted my chair back against the wall a little with my legs naturally apart, not trying to be provocative. I thought my date had a funny look on his face, but he said nothing. Suddenly, he got very red in the face and leaned over and said, "I don't know how to tell you this, but your pants are ripped right where you need them." I had gone on the date wearing lovely new silk pants and a lace thong.

I ran into the restaurant and sure enough I had torn the delicate material of the pants. I asked a waitress if she had a safety pin and she surprised me by bringing me a tiny sewing repair kit from her purse. It took about 15 minutes for me to sew my pants. By the time I got back to the table, my date was paying the bill and was angry because he thought I had slipped out the back door.

I explained about sewing the pants, but he was still mad and took me right home in silence and dumped me off at the curb by my house. He hasn't called or

WIRED

By **GREGG ELLMAN**
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Wireless stereo system has amazing sound

I had never heard of German audio company Thonet & Vander until a representative introduced me to the Ratsel BT stereo system.

The five-piece wireless system is not just another wireless speaker, and you'll agree as soon as you crank it up.

However, it can't fit in your pocket like many wireless speakers, and you wouldn't want it to, because it weighs more than seven kilograms. It was designed as a complete stereo system, and it sure is that, and then some.

The music originates from your smartphone or tablet. After pairing via Bluetooth, you'll hear the powerful, amazing sound.

You can control everything from the wireless remote or a free-standing control box (both are included). Functionality includes volume, mute, skipping and pausing selections and adjusting bass and treble levels.

The other three pieces are a subwoofer and a pair of speakers.

The subwoofer is built with Hammer Bass, which the company says is technology to heighten the impact of low frequencies.

The system includes anti-magnetic shield technology to block external interferences and sounds. The exterior is designed with a good-looking, high-density wood to maximize acoustic performance.

A recent media release referred to the system as a virtual surround sound system, which makes sense now.

If you want a direct connection, there are RCA stereo inputs, and it also supports NFC pairing.

It has a frequency response of 30Hz-20kHz, if that means anything to you. To me, it means this system rocks and rolls, even if that statement shows my age.

DETAILS: US$199; thonet-vander.com.

Mic designed for GoPro works great

WITH the incredible popularity of the GoPro camera system, users will have ample opportunities to use the MXL Lavalier stereo microphone, built specifically for the action camera system.

It's simple to use and compatible with the GoPro Hero3, Hero 3+ and Hero4 cameras, as well as many GoPro accessories and cases.

The design is great, with a built-in, low-profile, right-angle mini-USB connector on the microphone's 1.5-metre cable. This allows it to sit flush and avoids potential damage.

Aside from plugging it in, there's no setup involved. A pair of noise-minimizing windscreens and a shirt clip are included.

DETAILS: US$74; mxlmics.com.

Magnetic mount a marvel

SCOSCHE'S MagicMount XL surface-mounting system for smartphones and tablets has no hidden tricks; it just works great.

You use it to mount your devices to a wall, floor, desktop or dashboard for hands-free use while driving.

Dr. Dre

Downloads

THE most downloaded albums and singles from iTunes in Canada last week:

Albums

1. *Compton* — Dr. Dre
2. *Sounds Good Feels Good* (deluxe edition, pre-order) — 5 Seconds of Summer
3. *Kill the Lights* — Luke Bryan
4. *Straight Outta Compton* — N.W.A.
5. *Venom* (deluxe edition) — Bullet for My Valentine
6. *Cry Baby* (deluxe version) — Melanie Martinez
7. *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* — Drake
8. *x* — Ed Sheeran
9. *Wilder Mind* — Mumford & Sons
10. *Beauty Behind the Madness* — the Weeknd (pre-order)

Singles

1. *Can't Feel My Face* — the Weeknd